

1-1 By: Carona S.B. No. 618  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 18, 2013; February 25, 2013,  
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Business and Commerce;  
 1-4 March 6, 2013, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 9,  
 1-5 Nays 0; March 6, 2013, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the elimination of the licensing and registration  
 1-20 requirements for ringside physicians and timekeepers for combative  
 1-21 sports events.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. Subdivision (20), Section 2052.002, Occupations  
 1-24 Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-25 (20) "Ringside physician" means an individual who has  
 1-26 an unrestricted and unlimited license [licensed] to practice  
 1-27 medicine in this state and who, by agreement, is assigned as the  
 1-28 physician for a combative sports event [registered with the  
 1-29 department].

1-30 SECTION 2. Subsection (b), Section 2052.052, Occupations  
 1-31 Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-32 (b) The commission may adopt rules:

1-33 (1) governing boxing, kickboxing, martial arts, or  
 1-34 mixed martial arts contests and exhibitions;

1-35 (2) establishing reasonable qualifications for an  
 1-36 applicant seeking a license or registration from the department  
 1-37 under this chapter;

1-38 (3) recognizing a sanction, medical suspension, or  
 1-39 disqualification of a licensee or registrant by a combative sports  
 1-40 authority in any state, provided that if licensure or registration  
 1-41 is denied based on those actions, an applicant has an opportunity  
 1-42 for a hearing as prescribed by rule;

1-43 (4) establishing selection criteria and procedures  
 1-44 for the assignment of individuals who agree to act as ringside  
 1-45 physicians and timekeepers for combative sports events [practice  
 1-46 requirements or specialty certifications that a person licensed to  
 1-47 practice medicine in this state must meet to register as a ringside  
 1-48 physician];

1-49 (5) requiring a contestant to present with an  
 1-50 application for licensure or license renewal documentation of  
 1-51 recent blood test results that demonstrate whether the contestant  
 1-52 is free from hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, human  
 1-53 immunodeficiency virus, and any other communicable disease  
 1-54 designated by commission rule and providing that a contestant's  
 1-55 failure to provide the required blood test results disqualifies the  
 1-56 contestant;

1-57 (6) providing that to participate in any event a  
 1-58 contestant must be free of hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus,  
 1-59 human immunodeficiency virus, and any other communicable disease  
 1-60 designated by rule;

1-61 (7) requiring that a contestant present with an

2-1 application for licensure or license renewal documentation of the  
2-2 results of a physical examination, including an ophthalmologic  
2-3 examination, and providing for disqualification of a contestant who  
2-4 is determined by an examining physician to be unfit;

2-5 (8) establishing additional responsibilities for  
2-6 promoters; and

2-7 (9) governing regulated amateur events.

2-8 SECTION 3. Section 2052.107, Occupations Code, is amended  
2-9 to read as follows:

2-10 Sec. 2052.107. OTHER COMBATIVE SPORTS LICENSES. Unless a  
2-11 person holds a license or registration issued under this chapter,  
2-12 the person may not act as a combative sports:

- 2-13 (1) professional contestant;
- 2-14 (2) manager of a professional contestant;
- 2-15 (3) referee;
- 2-16 (4) judge;
- 2-17 (5) second;
- 2-18 (6) [~~timekeeper,~~
- 2-19 [~~(7)~~] matchmaker;
- 2-20 [~~(8) ringside physician,~~] or
- 2-21 (7) [~~(9)~~] event coordinator.

2-22 SECTION 4. (a) A disciplinary or administrative  
2-23 proceeding pending under Chapter 51 or 2052, Occupations Code, that  
2-24 is related to a violation of licensing or registration requirements  
2-25 for a timekeeper or ringside physician under Chapter 2052,  
2-26 Occupations Code, as that chapter existed immediately before the  
2-27 effective date of this Act, is dismissed.

2-28 (b) An administrative penalty assessed by the Texas  
2-29 Commission of Licensing and Regulation or the executive director of  
2-30 the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation under Chapter  
2-31 2052, Occupations Code, related to a violation of Chapter 2052,  
2-32 Occupations Code, as that chapter existed immediately before the  
2-33 effective date of this Act, may be collected as provided by Chapter  
2-34 51, Occupations Code.

2-35 (c) The change in law made by this Act does not affect the  
2-36 pending prosecution of an offense under Chapter 2052, Occupations  
2-37 Code, as that chapter existed immediately before the effective date  
2-38 of this Act. An offense committed before the effective date of this  
2-39 Act is governed by the law in effect at the time the offense was  
2-40 committed, and the former law is continued in effect for that  
2-41 purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed  
2-42 before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense  
2-43 occurred before that date.

2-44 (d) As soon as practicable after the effective date of this  
2-45 Act, the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation shall return  
2-46 a prorated portion of the fee paid to the department for the  
2-47 issuance or renewal of the registration or license to a person who  
2-48 holds a valid registration as a ringside physician or timekeeper  
2-49 issued under Chapter 2052, Occupations Code, as that chapter  
2-50 existed immediately before the effective date of this Act.

2-51 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

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